

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 INR-07 INRE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 CPR-01 /066 W

----- 019750

O 170951Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9029

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACREPPHIL IMMEDIATE

13TH AF IMMEDIATE

3D COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP DW/DOH 13TH AF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVAL IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TPHY, RP

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM PRESIDENT FORD
ON MINDANAO EARTHQUAKE.

REF: A. MANILA 12379; B. MANILA 12344

1. HEAVY EARTHQUAKE STRUCK SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AREAS
MINDANAO SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AUG 17. PRESIDENT MARCOS
HAS DECLARED STATE OF CALAMITY IN ALL MINDANAO AND TAWI-
TAWI, SULU, BASILAN PROVINCES. THREE HUNDRED DEAD REPORTED,
BUT IN VIEW WIDESPREAD INTERRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS AND GIVEN TIDAL
WAVE EFFECTS IN REMOTE AREAS, WE ANTICIPATE MUCH HIGHER CAS-
UALTIES.

2. NO REPORTS OF AMERICANS KILLED. HOWEVER, AMERICAN
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MISSIONARIES AND OTHER AMCITS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT AREA

AND THERE MAY BE SOME CASUALTIES. ONE AUSTRALIAN ENGINEER
WORKING ON AUSTRALIAN AID PROJECT CONFIRMED DEAD IN PAGADIAN.

3. THAT EARTHQUAKE AREA COINCIDES WITH AREA OF MUSLIM
INSURGENCY MAY COMPLICATE RELIEF EFFORTS.

4. GOP HAS NOT YET APPROACHED US FOR ASSISTANCE.
JUDGING FROM PAST EXPERIENCE AND MAGNITUDE OF CURRENT
DISASTER WE ANTICIPATE SUCH REQUEST AND WILL RESPOND
TO BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

5. WE BELIEVE EARLY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO
PRESIDENT MARCOS IS APPROPRIATE ALONG LINES:
QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I AM DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO
LEARN OF THE CALAMITY WHICH STRUCK MINDANAO AS A RESULT
OF THE AUGUST 17 EARTHQUAKE. AMERICANS JOIN ME IN
OFFERING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE MANY LIVES LOST.
THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO RESPOND WITH HUMANI-
TARIAN ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO FACILITATE YOUR
NATION'S SPEEDY RECOVERY FROM THIS DISASTER.
SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT. UNQUOTE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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